THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1871.

The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

Government Advices Concerning Affairs in the Indian Country.

Late War Rumors, and What They are Worth.

Informal Meeting of the Joint High Commission to be Held During the Week.

The Treasury Programme for March.

List of Agents Appointed to Negotiate the Funding Loan Abroad.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.
THE OREGON CENTRAL RAILROAD BILL—ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—On the 19th of October last, Secretary Cox requested the Attorney General to give his opinion in regard to the rights of the Oregon Central Railroad a Telegraph Company to assign to Isaiah Prentiss, and privileges of the Willamette Valley Railroad Company, whose agent, Ben Ballsley, had bought the same for $1. Mr. Akerman, in his opinion, very concisely remarked, says that, except the first section, no part of the act suggests even the suspicion that Congress, when it passed the act of 1866, intended any grant to the Oregon Central

The Chicago Tribune.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1871.

THE STATE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

Treating of the general subject of public salaries, the *Nation* says, as an illustration, the action of the Illinois Senate in reducing the salaries of the three Railroad Commissioners under the proposed law, from $5,000, the sum reported by the committee, to $3,500. The writer reviews the field of labor of the proposed officials—a vast State, with over 5,000 miles of railway, receiving an annual income of $50,000,000. To bring to bear upon these gigantic corporations under the proposed law, common and statute law, and thereby to enforce, as has hitherto been found impracticable, the rights of the people, is the Herculean task of these Commissioners. The later to be done, and the qualifications required, are thus summed up by the *Nation*:

"A whole policy is to be originated, absolutely created out of nothing, or, if less, worse than that, to be re-created out of rotten and hostile elements. He is a bold man who will even undertake the task; the man who will carry it successfully through is not, in addition to being a very bold man, a very rare man. It is, in point of fact, perhaps about all the qualities which bear the highest market value in the labor market of the world. Like all men who have to deal with corporations, he must have prodigious powers of self-control, and he must be proof against all temptation, and likely to be regarded as proof against it, by men who have been in the habit of finding that they could not be. He must be a man of immense courage, and he must be a man of great knowledge of business and of business men, and of the ways of corporations in the country where he grew up—a knowledge which is the salary of the lowest class of the Senators."

It is not affirming too much, probably, to say that the proposed reform in railway management as likely to be productive of more good, so far as this country is concerned, than the greatest of its class which any age has been called upon to solve. It is more than a problem. It is a battle between the two great antagonistic forces,—concentration, by representation of the thousand and one commercial tendencies of the time, and distribution and equalization, as represented in the spirit of our institutions. Illinois has elected herself as the battle-ground upon which the momentous issue shall be fought out. To arrange the status of the men who shall adjudicate the State in the warfare is as if King William, in the outset of his campaign against Napoleon, had let the contract of leading his armies to the lowest bidder.

There are, doubtless, men who would undertake the task of the proposed Commissioners for $6,500 per annum; but there are also those who would undertake it for $2,500, $1,500, or even $500, coupled with "the honor of the thing"—a consideration which, some pessimistic residents of its Legislature insist, is not without consequence. Why not accept one of the lowest priced men, and thus save the State several thousand dollars per annum upon the three? Plainly because the Legislature acknowledged, tacitly, if not otherwise, that man's worth as workers, now-a-days, is indicated by their price in labor's market. Their adoption, therefore, of $3,500 as the proper salary of their Commissioners, indicated that they wanted $3,500 men for the kind of job which they have on hand. Now nothing is plainer than that that grade of men will not accomplish any-thing in the reform proposed. The men whom the State shall choose for this work will have to encounter not only the opposition of first-class strategists and organizers—$10,000 men, as gauged by the salaries which they draw—but they will have to encounter them at great odds, as each of the latter will be backed by the experience of their opponents. The railroad corporations have all the advantage of knowing their ground, while the Commissioners have yet to learn it. The railroads also have behind them a capital of millions, which they can use in ways denied to the State. A very short glance at the situation would serve to convince your cheap Commissioner that $6,500, even with "the honor of the thing" thrown in, was no consideration to induce him to betray the honorable trust, the contingency which will be his portion in an event. He would speedily conclude that he had got "honor" enough, and take himself out of the public fustiads without more ado. There are two other classes of $3,500 men who might act otherwise. One of these would be left behind, before three months, to betray his sacred trust, and the other would stupidly or slolidly plod on in his unequal task, betraying the State, no less effectually, though more honestly.

Of course, we do not mean to imply that the State should employ its Commissioners at such a sum as shall place dishonest officials above the reach of bribery. That would be impossible. We merely mean to insist that the class of men required for the duties of the proposed commission—honest, capacious, patient, indefatigable, and having good technical knowledge of the rules and principles, both of law and commerce—cannot be obtained for any such salaries as have been agreed to in the Railroad and Warehouse bill. Those Senators who voted for $3,500 cannot be more zealous advocates of economy than THE TRIBUNE is; they are merely more confident than we are of the practicability of making a silk purse out of a sow's ear. The laborer is worthy of his hire, whether he works for the State or for a private individual; and his hire is regulated by the demand in which his labor is held. No third-rate railroad in Illinois expects to get a President or manager for a less salary than $5,000 per year; how can the State expect, for less than that, to get men to superintend its interests in *all* the railroads, from first-class downwards, hedged in a body, and contending for enormous stakes? Certainly, the State is not an object of charity; to be saved gratuitously, nor is the "honor" of being called a Commissioner a consideration of any moment with the class of men upon whom reliance could be placed in case an emergency at the

[illegible] is another fact appropriate, now [illegible] subject of the proposed commis[illegible]ry, viz.: the propriety of increas[illegible] number of the Commissioners to five. Their body is charged with inhibitions and multifarious duties, which will increase the working, each year, of every county in the State which has a railroad station, and the proportion of very minute and voluminous reports upon the management and business of all the railroads in the State. To these labors, and the general duty of enforcing the laws, the Commissioners are charged with the supervision of weighmasters and of the inspection of grain. The inspection has cost the people more than the salary of two additional Commissioners, and has been a source of considerable revenue to the Board of Trade. A careful supervision of this branch of trade will be useful to the public interest, and it is difficult to see how this can be effected without increasing the number of persons to whom the Commissioners, which need not, however, increase the expense, since the inspection of grain charges has paid, and always will pay, its own cost.

The Senate has rejected, by a vote of 31 to 11, the amendment to the Post Office Appropriation bill proposed by Senator Williams, of Oregon, for a subsidy of fifteen per cent per annum on the San Francisco and Panama mail service. The labors of Senator Williams, in behalf of this proposition, are entitled to the highest praise, and his defeat, we fear, is but the precursor of the defeat of the whole measure. The Senate probably will have passed its bill for the reduction of postage before the end of the week, and the House will not be likely to act upon the subject of ocean mail service during the present session. Thus the matter will be left to the next Congress, and the chances are that the Senate will then be found as hostile to the proposition as it is now. The Senate is not an object of charity, to be saved gratuitously, nor is the "honor" of being called a Commissioner a consideration of any moment with the class of men upon whom reliance could be placed in case an emergency at the

ENGLAND'S TURN NEXT!

"In the *Fortnightly Review* for February is an article on the 'Atonement of England,' which has attracted a good deal of attention among English readers. Its writer, Mr. Frederick Harrison, is a leader of the English Democrats in politics, and of British positivists in philosophy. His sympathies with the ultra Republican school of Frenchmen give a warm and florid tone to his arguments, which will not add to its weight in all English quarters. But, on the other hand, his trenchant sarcasm on the score of German pusillanimity, in the recent passive policy toward Prussia and France, is well calculated to raise the ire of not only England, but of Germany, upon her favor, and will be distasteful to many of the friends of the writer's own party. Another, who at first was disposed to be pleased with the drawing, will be offended at the coarseness of the execution. Mr. Harrison, after the manner of Victor Hugo and Prince, and they were numerous, did not hesitate to call the Germans—for a week through all the forums of the world—by the name of Huns. Their conduct, he declared, carrying them back to their ancient barbarism, was that of Huns. They were Huns in France, and they would be the same by a descent upon England. Mr. Harrison's article was the occasion of the subjoined letter from Mr. Matthew Arnold, which, as an illustration of the temper of the times, is worthy of preservation:

"'Is the country to remain content, Prussia, if she sees fit, to make with her conquered enemy, or arrange overmuch at her own good pleasure, the terms upon which the latter shall be allowed to recover herself, and upon her force, and will be disposed to use it, in the event of her own supremacy, hereafter, who at first was content to see her enemy crushed? Is the drawing here in question correct or not? Is it not, in its general features, a true picture of the temper and conduct of the victorious party? Is it not, in its general features, a true picture of the temper and conduct of the victorious party? Is it not, in its general features, a true picture of the temper and conduct of the victorious party

BERLIN.

Prussian Expectations as to Peace.

Industries Created by the War.

The Kropp Cannon and the Krupp Worst Banner.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

BERLIN, Feb. 6.

THE PEACE QUESTION.

The question now interesting everybody is whether there will be peace, what will be the peace, and with what guarantees it will be concluded. On the first two points we are satisfied, the public journals, without any exception, expressing the conviction that the present armistice will end in peace. The terms can be told of the journals of Austria, but generally in England and wherever others touch upon France and Russia he have elsewhere. It is now agreed that the general expression of the satisfaction will have some effect in inducing the French not to be too particular on the terms. Though there is by no means a unanimity in their party, yet many lasting people speak decidedly for peace. The people in France, as reported by the German correspondents (in those places occupied by the German troops), are strongly in favor of peace. From the commencement of Gambetta, which orders universal recruiting, exercising and provisioning of the army, and, if is thought, if properly carried out, will be completed as usual only with such care.

The guarantees of a REVIEW OF HORACE GREELEY, David W. Gressey, inventor of the Tribune editor, was killed by the cars a town in Connecticut, Monday, 20. Mr. Greeley, Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill granting lands to aid in the building of railroads in Minnesota.

Mr. WAITE, of Connecticut, moved that the bill for selling the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace be postponed for the purpose of taking up the bill relating to the salaries of Judges. Recommended.

Mr. CARY opposed the motion, as the Judiciary Committee were unanimous in their reference to the Committee on Appropriations. Mr. WRIGHT, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, said he would report the bill on the following morning, recommending that it pass.

Mr. DAWES moved the adoption of the joint resolution directing the Secretary of War to call for estimates for the holding of the session of the Court Martial in the case of Gen. Hazen.

RAILROAD FREIGHTS.

Mr. HILDRUP, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, reported back a bill for the regulation of railroad grain freights. It provides that railroad companies shall transport grain and other articles named in bulk, at the same rate per 100 pounds as they charge for the transportation of the same quantity of grain, or other articles named, in bags or packages.

Mr. HILDRUP, 1,000 copies were ordered printed.

LITTLE VARNIE.

Mr. HAY, from the Committee on Claims and Revolutionary Claims, reported back the bill for the relief of Little Varnie, giving over the title of the Union to the Government, and recommending the appropriation of $1,000 for the relief of Little Varnie. The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Virginia, from the Committee on Printing, reported back the resolution of the Committee on Printing, reported back the resolution of the Senate for the appointment of a joint committee of five, to consider what, if any, legislation is necessary to be passed before adjournment, and reported a substitute for the same, providing for the appointment of a committee of three on the part of the House, and to report by bill or otherwise. Mr. JOHNSTON moved the previous question on the adoption of the substitute. Mr. BECKWITH moved to lay the whole subject on the table. Agreed to—yeas 107, nays 57.

Mr. FRYE—To authorize the compromise of certain claims arising out of the seizure of vessels and cargoes during the late war. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. WAITE—Relating to pre-emption and homestead entries of public lands. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. WAITE—In relation to Justices of the Peace. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. WAITE—Relating to the compensation of Jurors. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. WAITE—Relating to the compensation of witnesses. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GALLOWAY—Concerning an office in the State of Illinois, and for the punishment of offenses committed therein. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GALLOWAY—Concerning an office in the State of Illinois, and for the punishment of offenses committed therein. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SPRINGER—A resolution in the office of the House, limiting the time of session. Adopted—yeas 130, nays 3.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

SALARIES OF HALL-ROOM YOUNG.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill to regulate the salaries of officers in the Executive Departments.

Mr. HOAR, of Massachusetts, moved to strike out the clause fixing the salary of the Librarian at $3,000, and to insert $4,000.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Virginia, moved to amend by striking out $4,000 and inserting $3,500.

Mr. LAWRENCE, of Ohio, moved to amend by striking out $3,500 and inserting $3,000.

Mr. HOAR withdrew his motion, in order that it might be moved further after the bill was disposed of.

Mr. LAWRENCE'S amendment was agreed to—yeas 107, nays 57.

Mr. HOAR moved to strike out the clause fixing the salary of the Librarian at $3,000, and to insert $4,000.

Mr. JOHNSON

THE SOCIAL EVIL.

Interesting Discourse by Rev. R. L. Collier.

A Candid, Christian Discussion of the Great Moral Problem.

The announcement that the Rev. Robert Laird Collier would preach on "The Social Evil," attracted a large audience to the Church of the Messiah, on Sunday evening, and it may be regarded as a healthy sign of the morality of our city that so large a proportion of the congregation was composed of young men. Some of these seemed to be under the impression that the subject was one of scientific interest only, but at the close of the discourse they probably went to their homes with other views. The sermon was as follows:

TEXT.—"Let us consult for it."

I shall open my text by saying that we meet for the sake of the practical, or moral, consideration. Any medical or scientific discussion of the subject would be out of place in this assembly. The world is full enough of such treatises, and the world is full enough of the literature of prurient curiosity. We need a tone of holy reverence, which will be wrapped in the sanctity of most every virtue and on every consideration of human interest, and which will come, that they can only be evil, from the lips of God and of the Christ of God